Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A biocompatible degradable composite material, characterized in that it consists of a degradable biocompatible phosphocalcium and/or calcium sulfate matrix, said matrix containing magnetic particles, said material being found as a slurry during its introduction into the organism, as a solid subsequently and said matrix being resorbed within a period of a few days to a few weeks.

2. (Original) The composite material according to claim 1, characterized in that the calcium phosphate is a mixture comprising a phosphate selected from the group of amorphous calcium phosphates, low crystalline apatite phosphates, anhydrous dicalcium phosphates or dicalcium phosphate dehydrates, tricalcium phosphates, monocalcium phosphate monohydrates, pyrophosphates, octocalcium phosphates, or hydroxyapatite.

3. (Currently amended) The material according to ~~any of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, characterized in that said calcium phosphate forms a rapidly resorbable phosphocalcium matrix.

4. (Currently amended) The material according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, further comprising calcium sulfate.

5. (Currently amended) The material according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that it further consists of a degradable biocompatible polymer matrix comprising a polymer selected from collagen, polylactic and glycolic acids, polydioxanone, polyfumarate, polyanhydrides, polyorthoesters, polyurethanes, polyphosphazenes, polycaprolactone, polyhydroxybutyrate, polyhydroxy-valerate, polyvalerolactone, polytartronic and polymalonic acid; containing magnetic particles.

6. (Currently amended) The material according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that said matrix has biocompatibility and degradation characteristics compatible with applications of the material for treating bone tumors.

7. (Currently amended) The material according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that the magnetic particles contain a metal, notably iron, preferably as ferrites: magnetite or maghemite or any other ferro-, ferri-magnetic, meta- or anti-ferromagnetic inorganic material.

8. (Currently amended) The material according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, characterized in that said particles consist of an organomineral composite containing an iron, ferrite core, or core of any other magnetic compound coated with polymer as a thin layer or as polymeric chains having a free end.

9. (Currently amended) The material according to ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, characterized in that said magnetic particles are vectors either of a molecule used in chemotherapy or an isotope.

10. (Currently amended) The material according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, characterized in that said particles have a particle size between 0.001 and 0.1 μm.

11. (Currently amended) The material according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, characterized in that said particles have a particle size between 0.1 and 10 μm.

12. (Currently amended) The material according to ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, forming a mineral matrix releasing magnetic particles according to kinetics compatible with their internalization by cells from neighboring tissues.

13. (Currently amended) The material according to ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, characterized in that it comprises particles coated with a calcium phosphate layer containing a fluorescent element such as europium.

14. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a material according to ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, comprising mixing of a magnetic particle powder with a calcium sulfate or phosphate mineral powder, in an aqueous solution until a slurry is formed, and hardening said slurry for a few minutes to a few hours.

15. (Original) The method for preparing a material according to claim 10, further comprising a step for preparing said particles by hydrothermal synthesis in a reactor by injecting a FeCl2 solution, adding deaerated water containing NaOH, the mixture being placed under nitrogen flow and brought to a temperature between 50°C and 100°C, replacing nitrogen with compressed air until ferrites are obtained.

16. (Currently amended) ~~Use of a material according to any of claims 1 to 13 for preparing a device~~ A method for diagnosing bone cancers comprising ~~the use of magnetic particles contained in said materials as tracers of~~ administering to a subject the material of claim 1 as a tracer for MRI-detectable tumor cells and ~~the~~ tracking ~~of the~~ migrating tumor cells that take up the tracer in order to be able to treat sites at infraclinic stages.

17. (Currently amended) ~~Use of a material according to any of claims 1 to 13 for preparing a device~~ A method for tracing tumor cells in a subject having ingested ~~particles~~ the material of claim 1 after desalting from said degradable and biocompatible material by means of MRI, electronic microscopy, confocal microscopy, or fluorescence microscopy.

18. (Currently amended) ~~Use of a material~~ A method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 16 ~~for preparing a drug or a medical device~~ wherein the treatment is for treating bone tumors.

19. (Currently amended) ~~Use~~ A method according to claim 18 wherein the treatment is for targeted thermolysis of cancer cells.

20. (Currently amended) ~~Use~~ A method according to claim 19, characterized in that the magnetic particles once inside the cells are intended to be heated in a magnetic field which may be produced by a nuclear magnetic resonance imaging apparatus or any other generator.

21. (Currently amended) ~~Use~~ A method according to ~~any of claims 18 to 20~~ claim 17, wherein the treatment is combined with radiotherapy and/or chemotherapy.